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Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Comoros, Costa Rica, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Guatemala, Indonesia, Japan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Montenegro, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, United Arab Emirates and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: draft resolution

Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/30 of 7 December 1994, 50/133 of 20 December 1995, 51/31 of 6 December 1996, 52/18 of 21 November 1997, 53/31 of 23 November 1998, 54/36 of 29 November 1999, 55/43 of 27 November 2000, 56/96 of 14 December 2001, 56/269 of 27 March 2002, 58/13 of 17 November 2003, 58/281 of 9 February 2004 and 60/253 of 2 May 2006,

Bearing in mind the indissoluble links between the principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[1] and the foundations of any democratic society,

Recognizing that human rights, the rule of law and democracy are interlinked and mutually reinforcing and that they belong to the universal and indivisible core values and principles of the United Nations,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration adopted by Heads of State and Government on 8 September 2000,[2] in particular paragraphs 6 and 24 thereof, and the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[3]

[1] Resolution 217 A (III).
[2] See resolution 55/2.
[3] See resolution 60/1.

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Recalling also the declarations and plans of action of the six international conferences of new or restored democracies adopted in Manila in 1988, Managua in 1994, Bucharest in 1997, Cotonou in 2000, Ulaanbaatar in 2003 and Doha in 2006,

Reaffirming that democracy is a universal value based on the freely expressed will of people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and their full participation in all aspects of their lives,

Reaffirming also that while democracies share common features, there is no single model of democracy and that it does not belong to any country or region, and reaffirming further the necessity of due respect for sovereignty and the right to self-determination and territorial integrity,

Stressing that democracy, development and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing,

Recognizing that a large number of States are now participating in the international conferences of new or restored democracies and are working together with a host of parliamentarians and international organizations and a large number of non-governmental organizations active in the field of democracy from around the world,

Recognizing also that the international conferences of new or restored democracies over the past eighteen years since 1988 have strengthened international cooperation among new and restored democracies with a view to consolidating the integration of democracy, peace and development,

Underlining our commitment to, faith in and support for the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, which are indispensable foundations of a more peaceful, prosperous and just world, and reiterating our determination to foster strict respect for them, and in this regard, commending the Secretary-General and the United Nations system for their continuous efforts to consolidate democracy,

Bearing in mind that the activities of the United Nations carried out in support of Governments to promote and consolidate democracy are undertaken in accordance with the Charter and only at the specific request of the Member States concerned,

Expressing its deep appreciation to the Government of Qatar for the successful organization of the Sixth International Conference of New or Restored Democracies,

Recalling that the Sixth International Conference focused on building capacity, democracy and social progress,

Taking note with satisfaction of the deliberations of the Sixth International Conference, which confirmed the commendable efforts of a considerable number of societies that have undertaken concrete actions to achieve better standards of living and solidarity, good governance practices, economic reforms and sustainable development, the rule of law, justice and equality,

1. *Welcomes* the outcome of the Sixth International Conference of New or Restored Democracies, hosted by Qatar and convened in Doha from 29 October to 1 November 2006;[4]

2. *Also welcomes* the special attention given by the Sixth International Conference to the need for the systematic implementation of the recommendations of the international conferences of new or restored democracies, and urges Qatar, as the Chair of the Sixth International Conference, to proceed with the implementation process and to keep the General Assembly informed, as appropriate, of the progress achieved;

3. *Recognizes* the interactions between Governments, parliaments and civil society organizations at all levels in promoting democracy, freedom, equality, participation, respect for human rights and the rule of law;

4. *Welcomes* the tripartite character (Governments, parliaments, civil society) of the Sixth International Conference, which allowed for greater interaction and cooperation in the common effort of promoting democracy;

5. *Urges* the Secretary-General to continue to improve the capacity of the Organization to respond effectively to the requests of Member States by providing adequate support for their efforts to achieve the goals of good governance and democratization, including through the activities of the Democracy Fund at the United Nations;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to play an active role in facilitating international cooperation within the framework of the follow-up to the Sixth International Conference, with the support of other parts of the United Nations system providing democracy assistance or advice, including, as appropriate, the United Nations Democracy Fund;

7. *Encourages* Governments to strengthen national programmes devoted to the promotion and consolidation of democracy, including through increased bilateral, regional and international cooperation, taking into account innovative approaches and best practices;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in his report to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session, under the item entitled "Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies", a summary of the results of the Sixth International Conference.

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[4] A/61/581, annex.